

Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A ball-nut assembly comprising:

a) a ball nut including a radial through slot and including an outer surface having a first portion, having a ledge radially recessed from the first portion and at least partially bounding the through slot, and having an undercut wall connecting the ledge and the first portion; and

b) a crossover member having a flange supported by the ledge and having a crossover-grooved portion disposed in the through slot, wherein the flange has at least one ~~deformed~~ transversely and ductilely elongated portion contacting the undercut wall of the outer surface of the ball nut.

Claim 2 (original): The ball-nut assembly of claim 1, wherein the ledge has an annular shape, surrounds the through slot, and annularly supports the flange.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The ball-nut assembly of claim 2, wherein the undercut wall has axially-opposing first and second end portions, and wherein the at-least-one ~~deformed~~ transversely and ductilely elongated portion includes first and second ~~deformed~~ transversely and ductilely elongated portions respectively contacting a corresponding one of the first and second end portions of the undercut wall.

Claim 4 (original): The ball-nut assembly of claim 3, wherein the first portion has a cylindrical shape.

Claim 5 (original): The ball-nut assembly of claim 4, wherein the crossover member has a flat outward facing surface disposed below the first portion of the outer surface of the ball nut.

Claim 6 (original): The ball-nut assembly of claim 5, wherein ball nut is a vehicle-brake-pad-driving ball nut.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A ball-screw-and-ball-nut assembly comprising:

a) a ball nut including an inside helical groove, including a radial through slot, and including an outer surface having a first portion, having a ledge radially recessed from the first portion and at least partially bounding the through slot, and having an undercut wall connecting the ledge and the first portion;

b) a crossover member having a flange supported by the ledge and having a crossover-grooved portion disposed in the through slot, wherein the flange has at least one ~~deformed~~ transversely and ductilely elongated portion contacting the undercut wall of the outer surface of the ball nut;

c) a ball screw including an outside helical groove and disposed inside the ball nut; and

d) a plurality of balls contacting the crossover-grooved portion of the crossover member and a portion of the inside and outside helical grooves.

Claim 8 (original): The ball-screw-and-ball-nut assembly of claim 7, wherein the ledge has an annular shape, surrounds the through slot, and annularly supports the flange.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The ball-screw-and-ball-nut assembly of claim 8, wherein the undercut wall has axially-opposing first and second end portions, and wherein the at-least-one ~~deformed~~ transversely and ductilely elongated portion includes first and second ~~deformed~~ transversely and ductilely elongated portions respectively contacting a corresponding one of the first and second end portions of the undercut wall.

Claim 10 (original): The ball-screw-and-ball-nut assembly of claim 9, wherein the first portion has a cylindrical shape.

Claim 11 (original): The ball-screw-and-ball-nut assembly of claim 10, wherein the crossover member has a flat outward facing surface disposed below the first portion of the outer surface of the ball nut.

Claim 12 (original): The ball-screw-and-ball-nut assembly of claim 11, wherein ball screw is an electric-motor-driven ball screw, and wherein the ball nut is a vehicle-brake-pad-driving ball nut.

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method for making a ball-nut assembly comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining a ball nut including a radial through slot and including an outer surface having a first portion, having a ledge radially recessed from the first portion and at least partially bounding the through slot, and having an undercut wall connecting the ledge and the first portion;
- b) obtaining a crossover member having a flange and a crossover-grooved portion;
- c) disposing the crossover member from outside the ball nut to have the flange supported by the ledge and the crossover-grooved portion disposed in the through slot; and
- d) ~~deforming~~ transversely and ductilely elongating the flange creating a staked portion of the flange which contacts the undercut wall of the outer surface of the ball nut.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~The method of claim 13 also including~~ A method for making a ball-nut assembly comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining a ball nut including a radial through slot and including an outer surface having a first portion, having a ledge radially recessed from the first portion and at least partially bounding the through slot, and having an undercut wall connecting the ledge and the first portion;
- b) obtaining a crossover member having a flange and a crossover-grooved portion;
- c) disposing the crossover member from outside the ball nut to have the flange supported by the ledge and the crossover-grooved portion disposed in the through slot;
- d) deforming the flange creating a staked portion of the flange which contacts the undercut wall of the outer surface of the ball nut; and
- e) after step a) and before step c), ~~the step of~~ aligning the ball nut on a locating arbor which simulates balls placed around a ball screw.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein step c) includes aligning the crossover member on the locating arbor.

Serial No.: 10/001,715
Attorney Docket No.: DP-305919
Amendment

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15, also including between steps c) and d) the step of checking the radial position of the crossover member with a position indicator.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 15, also including between steps c) and d) the step of clamping the crossover member against the locating arbor.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 15, wherein step d) includes using a stake punch.